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name of Ibn Bal'am, who cites Dunash in his Commentary on Deuteronomy xxviii. 27 (Fuchs, *Studien über Ibn Bal'am*, p. xx). Ibn Bal'am, again, is drawn upon by Tanhum Jerushalmi, in his annotations on 1 Sam. v. 6 (see Fuchs, *ib.*, p. xli, and Munk, *Notice sur Aboutwalid*, p. 59, n. 1). Among the few quotations in Abraham Ibn Ezra, one has remained unnoticed. It occurs in the first Commentary on Genesis i. 31, ed. Friedländer, p. 33: **וְרִאשֹׁן הָיָה אֵדֶן וְהָשֶׁךְ כְּרֵמוֹת הַלְבֵנָה וְהַהֲבִדְלָה בְּיוֹם הַשְּׁנִי כִּי בֵּן דֶּרֶךְ כּוֹכַב וְהַרְשָׁאִים בְּשִׁלִּישִׁי כִּי נָנָה לֹאֹת עַל כָּל מֵאֵכֶל וְכו'.** Still this passage may not come from Dunash's philological work; but, as is more probable, from his Commentary on the *Sepher Jezirah*. This citation may help to clear up the obscurity in which this commentary is wrapped up (see Steinschneider, *Die hebr. Uebers.*, pp. 394-401)<sup>1</sup>.

Appendices and Corrections (pp. 117-118) and a list of the quoted and elucidated Hebrew and Arabic grammatical termini (pp. 118-120) close Dr. Bacher's in many ways instructive and stimulating essay, which has again earned the author the sincere thanks of all friends of Hebrew linguistic science.

SAMUEL POZNAŃSKI.

BERLIN, December 29, 1895.

## A NEW GRAMMATICAL TEXT BOOK,

BY PROF. STRACK.

*Abriss des biblischen Aramäisch. Grammatik, nach Handschriften berichteter Text, Wörterbuch.* Von Prof. Dr. HERMANN L. STRACK. (Leipzig, T. C. Hinrich'sche Buchhandlung, 1896. 32 and 47 pages, 8vo.)

PROF. STRACK has published a grammatical compilation on the Aramaic used in the biblical books Ezra and Daniel, as a sequel to his Hebrew grammar published in 1893 (fifth edition). He had announced this *Abriss* as early as 1885 in the series which he has edited entitled "Porta linguarum orientalium." In the introduction to this work, Prof. Strack gives his reasons for the delay and for its

<sup>1</sup> Of the manuscripts enumerated by Dr. Steinschneider, I have examined two, the Berlin MS. 78, and MS. Bodl. Regio 51 (of Steinschneider's copy), but have not found in either the words cited by Ibn Ezra.

exclusion from the collection above mentioned. A grammatical compendium by Prof. Strack does not need to be specially recommended, everybody knows the merits of his Hebrew grammar and his other works as aids to teaching, as well as his editions of several Mishna-Tractates and his introduction in the Old Testament. The present compendium shows in like manner the same qualities, viz.: the greatest brevity combined with perfect clearness, exact statements founded on a thorough mastery of scientific philology. Above all his constant regard for the wants of the student must be specially commended. This compendium is the work both of a true scholar and a practically experienced teacher. He has thoroughly succeeded in attaining the aim explained in the introduction, viz.: "To offer, in the space of only twenty-four pages, a grammatical introduction to the Aramaic portions of the Bible, completely sufficient for students of Theology and for clergymen." This abridged grammar opens excellently with a paragraph dealing with the consonants of biblical Aramaic as compared with that of the Hebrew. It is of great advantage to the beginner, fresh from the study of Hebrew, to be at once informed as to the close relation, but also at the same time of the decided difference existing between the Hebrew and Aramaic. The last paragraph is likewise of practical value, where all the forms of the verbs contained in the biblical Aramaic are put together. As to particular details I have only to remark as follows: It would perhaps have been useful if the author had devoted a paragraph to a review of the *Hebraisms* occurring in the biblical Aramaic, which is as such of a peculiar character. In the paragraph on the vowels I notice the absence of a remark about the spelling of the Shwa-compositum (chateph) in such cases as *גִּלְ* or *גִּלְ*. In § 9 the passive form *Pe'il* is given as co-ordinate to the other stem forms (Prof. Strack calls them stem-modifications), as standing in a line between *Qal* (*Pe'al*) and *Pa'il*; it is, however, nowhere stated that this form, which is applied as a perfect tense, is in reality the passive participle of the *Qal* which serves as equivalent to the perfect. Prof. Strack (also Nöldeke) would do away with the cases in which the active participle is applied as *tempus historicum* as in Dan. ii. 5, *עֲנֶה*. v. 7, *קָרָא*, by supposing these verbs to be spelt originally otherwise, viz. *עֲנֶה*, *קָרָא*; this emendation, which extends over a succession of examples, seems to me doubtful and also unnecessary. Prof. Strack has not devoted a separate paragraph to the syntax, but has inserted the important points to be noted in the respective paragraphs on the nouns and verbs. The annexed text to be used as a grammatical exercise book comprises Ezra iv. 7-vi. 18, vii. 12-26, and Dan. ii. 7-vii. 28, to which are added also the Aramaic words and sentences from Gen. xxxi. 47 and Jer. x. 11, comprising con-

sequently all Aramaic pieces of the Holy Scripture. The text of Baer is the basis of his text, in addition to which, however, four MSS. were consulted with great care, two with Tiberian punctuation and two South Arabian, with superlinear punctuations of the simpler system. The critical notes are composed in Latin. A welcome novelty in this text is the non-punctuating of such words, the punctuation of which affects only the Qerê. Where these words occur only the consonants are given in the text, consequently the Kethib, whilst the punctuated Qerê is indicated in the notes. In the vocabulary the roots are translated into German, and all the requirements of the learner are supplied. It is needless to say that the book is very accurately printed, as such is quite expected of a publication by Prof. Strack. I have noticed neither a slip of the pen nor a misprint. I hope that this excellent little book may meet with the wide reception which it so well deserves.

W. BACHER.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT.

*Einleitung in das Alte Testament einschliesslich Apokryphen und Pseudepigraphen. Mit eingehender Angabe der Litteratur* von DR. HERMANN L. STRACK ao. Professor der Theologie an der Universität Berlin. Vierte, ganz neu bearbeitete Auflage. (München, 1895.)

THIS introduction, as the author remarks in his preface and indicates by the title of his volume, differs from similar works in two points. Stress is not laid on critical inquiries; pains are rather taken to supply a full and detailed account of the contents of the various books of Scripture and the literature indispensable for their scientific comprehension. With this view, the general introduction which forms the volume is preceded by a special introduction; of the two hundred and sixteen pages of the book, one hundred and sixty-one are devoted to the former and thirty-five to the latter topic. The remaining twenty pages with the headings "Auxiliaries to the linguistics of the Bible" and "Auxiliaries to exegesis" consist of bibliographical notices. The prefatory remarks briefly treat the names, conceptions, history and literature of the science of Biblical Introductions.

The author has aimed at furnishing a text-book for beginners in the strictest sense of the term. It must be acknowledged that he has executed his task briefly and concisely, and in a manner which proves